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FACSIMILE

TO:

Lanna Mai
NAME

U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office 703-308-3519
COMPANY/FIRM

FAX NUMBER

Alexandria
CITY

VA STATE (TELEPHONE NUMBER)

FROM:

Lewis T. Steadman 312-578-6502

15

NAME

TELEPHONE

TOTAL PAGES (Including Cover Sheet)

FOR THE RECORD:

DATE: February 24, 2004

URGENCY: SUPER RUSH

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FILE #: The
Northwestern
Corporation

CLIENT NAME: 072395.00003

FAXED BY: S. Marion

CONFIRMED: YES NO

NAME: TIME:

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MESSAGE:

U.S. Serial No. 09/954,771 - Bolen

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February 24, 2004

LEWIS T. STEADMAN
312-578-6502
lewis.steadmansr@hklaw.com

VIA FACSIMILE (703) 308-3519

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Alexandria, VA 22202

Attn: Lanna Mai

**Re: Patent Application entitled:
SECURE MERCHANDISE-VENDING MACHINE;
U.S. Serial No. 09/954,771; Our Reference No. 072395.00003**

Dear Ms. Mai:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of this morning, I enclose a copy of the Amendment B, with proposed drawing changes, filed February 9, 2004, a copy of the receipt postcard, is enclosed.

I believe this amendment, discussed with Mr. Anderson immediately before his retirement, places the application in condition for allowance, the allowability of the substance having been indicated in the Final Office Action of October 9, 2003.

Respectfully submitted



Lewis T. Steadman (17,074)

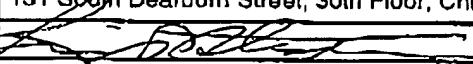
LTS/srm
Enclosures
1724227_v1

PTO/SB/21 (05-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

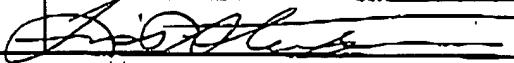
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TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>		Application Number	09/ 954,771
		Filing Date	September 18, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Richard K. Bolen
		Art Unit	3637
		Examiner Name	Gerald A. Anderson
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	13	Attorney Docket Number	072395.00003

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Post Card			
		Remarks			
		The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1794.			
		SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
		Firm or Individual name	Lewis T. Steadman, Holland & Knight LLP 131 South Dearborn Street, 30th Floor, Chicago, IL 60603		
		Signature			
		Date	February 9, 2004		

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Typed or printed name	Lewis T. Steadman (Reg. No. 17,074)		
Signature		Date	February 9, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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PTO/SB/17 (10-03)

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2004

Effective 10/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

 Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ 55.00)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/ 954,771
Filing Date	September 18, 2001
First Named Inventor	Richard K. Bolen
Examiner Name	Gerald A. Anderson
Art Unit	3637
Attorney Docket No.	072395.00001

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FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity	Small Entity	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1001 770	2001 385	Utility filing fee			
1002 340	2002 170	Design filing fee			
1003 530	2003 265	Plant filing fee			
1004 770	2004 385	Reissue filing fee			
1006 160	2005 80	Provisional filing fee			
SUBTOTAL (1)				(\$ 0.00)	

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

Total Claims	Independent Claims	Multiple Dependent	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
			-20** =		
			- 3** =		

Large Entity	Small Entity	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1202 18	2202 8	Claims in excess of 20			
1201 86	2201 43	Independent claims in excess of 3			
1203 290	2203 145	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid			
1204 86	2204 43	** Reissue independent claims over original patent			
1205 18	2205 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent			
SUBTOTAL (2)				(\$ 0.00)	

**or number previously paid, if greater. For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

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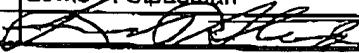
Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1051 190	2051 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052 50	2052 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053 130	1053 130	Non-English specification	
1812 2,520	1812 2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
1804 920*	1804 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805 1,840*	1805 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251 110	2251 65	Extension for reply within first month	55.00
1252 420	2252 210	Extension for reply within second month	
1253 950	2253 475	Extension for reply within third month	
1254 1,480	2254 740	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255 2,010	2255 1,005	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401 330	2401 165	Notice of Appeal	
1402 330	2402 165	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403 290	2403 145	Request for oral hearing	
1461 1,510	1451 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452 110	2452 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453 1,330	2453 865	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501 1,330	2501 665	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502 480	2502 240	Design issue fee	
1503 640	2503 320	Plant issue fee	
1460 130	1480 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807 50	1807 50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1806 180	1806 180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021 40	8021 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809 770	2809 385	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
1810 770	2810 385	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
1801 770	2801 385	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802 800	1802 800	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify)

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 55.00)

(Complete if applicable)			
Name (Print/Type)	Lewis T. Steadman	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	17,074
Signature		Telephone	312-578-6502
		Date	February 9, 2004

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Appl. No. 09/954,771
Amdt. Dated February 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States
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PLEASE APPLY A RECEIPT STAMP HERETO AND MAIL TO
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Transmittal Form, Fee Transmittal,
check \$55.00, Amendment B
Petition for Extension of Time

Richard K. Bolen

APPLICANT

Monday, February 09, 2004

TYPE OF DOCUMENT(S):072395.00003
09/ 954,771**MAILING DATE****REFERENCE NUMBER****HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP**

Due 2/9/04

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DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
02/09/04	Filing fee for one month extension.	72395-00003 \$55.00